

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 IO-10 SAM-01 AEC-05 /089 W

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R 071250Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4870

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

CINCPAC

CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0940

CINCPAC AND CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XO IN MARR MP

SUBJECT: LEFTIST CONFERENCE ON INDIAN OCEAN

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 14976; (B) PORT LOUIS 903

1. PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM HAS INFORMED ME THAT MAURITIAN DELEGATION TO THIS CONFERENCE WILL BE HEADED BY MINISTER OF ECONOMIC PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT KHER JAGATSINGH WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT OF MAURITIAN PEACE COMMITTEE. RAMGOOLAM WILL ALSO SEND HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY, MRS. RANI HEERAMUN, IN HER CAPACITY AS MEMBER MAURITIUS PEACE COUNCIL AND PROBABLY L. SEETOHUL, A LAWYER TRAINED IN USSR AND PROMINENT IN LOCAL MAURITIUS-USSR FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY. RAMGOOLAM SAID HE HAD
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BEEN VERY ANNOYED THAT SPONSORS OF TANANARIVE MEETING (REF

B) HAD INVITED REPRESENTATIVES OF LEFT WING OPPOSITION PARTY HERE AND SPONSORS OF NEW DELHI MEETING MAY DO SAME. THEREFORE HE HAD SENT JAGATSINGH TO MOSCOW TO TRY TO PERSUADE SOVIET WPC OFFICIALS TO LAY OFF INVITATIONS TO MAURITIAN OPPOSITION LEADERS AND ALLOW GOM TO CHOOSE ITS OWN REPRESENTATIVES TO DELHI CONFERENCE. (IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR WHETHER MARXIST MMM LEADER BERENGER OR ONE OF HIS LIEUTENANTS WILL ATTEND, BUT I DOUBT THAT GOM WILL IN END REFUSE PASSPORT TO BERENGER IF HE INSISTS GOING TO DELHI.)

2. TODAY I HAD BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH JAGATSINGH WITH FOLLOWING RESULTS: HE IDENTIFIED MAIN CONCERNS RE OUR DIEGO EXPANSION AS RELATED TO (A) WHETHER IT WOULD BECOME NUCLEAR BASE, (B) WHETHER IT WOULD SUPPORT NUCLEAR BOMBERS SUCH AS B-52S, (C) WHETHER IT WOULD PROVIDE BASE FOR POLARIS SUBMARINES, AND (D) WHETHER IT WOULD BE USED FOR SUPPORT OF SOUTH AFRICA IN STRATEGIC SENSE. I REPLIED THAT BY NO STRETCH OF THE IMAGINATION COULD OUR MODEST PROPOSED DIEGO EXPANSION BE CONSTRUED AS CONVERSION INTO A "NUCLEAR BASE", THAT LONG RANGE POLARIS SUBMARINES WERE NOT DEPENDENT UPON DISTANT BASES, THAT WE OBVIOUSLY CANNOT PUBLICIZE OUR NUCLEAR DEPLOYMENTS ANY MORE THAN SOVIETS OR ANYONE ELSE, AND THAT OUR USE OF DIEGO CERTAINLY HAS NO DIRECT CONNECTION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. I STRESSED THAT FOR US DIEGO REPRESENTS AN ECONOMICAL SUPPORT FACILITY FOR OUR MODERATE NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN WHICH IN RECENT TIMES HAS BEEN GENERALLY LESS THAN THAT OF SOVIETS, AND POINTED OUT THAT COMBINATION OF SEVERAL SOVIET NAVAL FACILITIES IN AND AROUND WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN ALREADY OUTWEIGH LIMITED DIEGO FACILITIES. I REMINDED HIM THAT WE SEEK NEITHER ESCALATION NOR CONFRONTATION BUT ARE OBLIGED TO BE REALISTIC ABOUT STRATEGIC FACTS OF LIFE IN THIS AREA.

3. JAGATSINGH SAID HE HAD BEEN MAKING CAREFUL STUDY OF WHOLE PROBLEM INCLUDING SUCH SOURCES AS 1972 PUBLICATION BY GEORGETOWN CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ON INDIAN OCEAN, AUSTRALIAN PROPOSAL ON INDIAN OCEAN EARLIER THIS YEAR AND RECENTLY EXPRESSED VIEWS OF SHAH OF IRAN. AT JAGATSINGH'S REQUEST, I WILL PROVIDE HIM WITH SUMMARY OF OUR POLICY VIEWS (FROM PREVIOUS GUIDANCES) BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE.

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4. JAGATSINGH EXPECTS TO GET HIS MARCHING ORDERS FROM RAMGOOLAM TOMORROW AND WILL ARRIVE NEW DELHI PROBABLY NOVEMBER 12. I INFORMED HIM EMBASSY NEW DELHI OFFICERS HAD BEEN INVITED TO OPENING CEREMONY AND WOULD ATTEND. HE SAID HE WOULD BE GLAD TO MEET WITH EMBASSY NEW DELHI REPRESENTATIVE BEFORE OR DURING CONFERENCE. I THINK IT WOULD BE WORTH THE EFFORT FOR AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN OR AT LEAST SENIOR EMBASSY OFFICER TO DO SO. JAGATSINGH IS SOPHISTICATED, SMOOTH OPERATOR NOT

BASICALLY ANTAGONISTIC TO WEST OR US. HE RECENTLY RETURNED FROM IMF/IBRD MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON AND IS CURRENTLY TRYING TO PERSUADE GALBRAITH TO VISIT MAURITIUS. JAGATSINGH IS NOW RUNNING SECOND IN RACE TO SUCCEED RAMGOOLAM WHENEVER HE STEPS DOWN.

MANHARD

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Message Attributes

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